



New Bone Density Technology Available at Mammoth Hospital

By Ehren Goetz, Public Relations Assistant

A significant advancement in bone density screening was made at Mammoth Hospital recently with the purchase of a new machine used to diagnose Osteopenia and Osteoporosis, thanks to the contributions of the Mammoth Hospital Auxiliary.

The machine DEXA-Scan, Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry, is the most commonly used test measuring bone mineral density nationwide, and the most accurate way to diagnosis Osteopenia or Osteoporosis. This machine also features special software that computes and displays bone density measurements on a computer monitor.

Osteoporosis involves a gradual loss of calcium, causing the bones to become thinner, more fragile, and more likely to break. This condition often affects women after menopause but may also be found in men.

Bone density screening prior to this new technology relied on regular x-rays. Using a regular x-ray, a person could have to up to 30% bone density lost before it would show up in testing. A DEXA Scan is so accurate that patient follow-up scans can be used to monitor how well a patient is doing with their recovery plan. The DEXA machines also use less than one-tenth the dose of radiation than a standard chest x-ray. Mammoth Hospital radiologic staff members are all excited to be working with the new equipment.